

# C S F D *Fire Log*

City of College Station Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2003

## Firefighter Olympics

The week of July 20 through 25 saw firefighters from around the state of Texas gather in Wichita Falls for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual State of Texas Professional Firefighter Olympics.

This event is held each year in a different city in the state. This year Wichita Falls hosted the event. The cities of Bryan and College Station hosted the event in 1993. Firefighters compete in such events as Golf, Sporting Clays, Track, Bowling, Weightlifting, Darts, Disc Golf, Archery, Softball, Four-man Sand Volleyball, Horseshoes, and Washers.

This year firefighters from the City of College Station went again for the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year. Those firefighters included...

† Brad Ballard – Bowling  
† Jim Connor – Bowling  
† Tim Valdez – Bowling  
† John Ford (Bryan FD) – Bowling  
† Jim Mack – Sporting Clays  
† Darrin Allen – Sporting Clays  
† Marvin Wagner – Sporting Clays

Medals are awarded to the top three places for individual, doubles, and team competitions respectfully. All represented the City of College Station to the best of their abilities. This year the individuals did receive medals again for the 6<sup>th</sup> year running. Those individuals are as follows...

- Brad Ballard, Jim Connor, Tim Valdez, and John Ford (Bryan FD) and a fifth team member from Abilene FD, received a silver medal in the team competition for Bowling.
- John Ford and Brad Ballard also placed just out of the medals with a fourth place finish in the doubles competition for bowling in their class.
- Tim Valdez and Jim Connor finished seventh in doubles in their class for bowling also.
- In sporting clays, Marvin Wagner received the gold. Also Marvin Wagner and team partner Darrin Allen placed fourth just out of the medals by one point, also in sporting clays.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all those who participated and represented the City of College Station. See you next year in San Antonio.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

## **TIP FOR THE QUARTER**

### **Hurricane Survival Kit**

As a storm approaches, the stores will be jammed with procrastinators, and many merchants may quickly run out of everything. Here's a list of things to gather in advance, in order to be hurricane-ready.

- A four-week supply of medicines.
- Non-perishable special dietary foods, if necessary
- Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, or air mattresses
- Flashlights and batteries
- Extra clothing, eyeglasses
- Lightweight folding chairs or cots
- Personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant
- Infant necessities including diapers, formula, bottles
- Quiet games, books, playing cards, and favorite toys for children
- Important papers, including driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies, and property inventories (written or videotaped)
- Automatic weather warning receiver and batteries.
- First aid kit, mosquito repellent, and water purification kit (tablets or chlorine available at drug stores)

## **County EMS Interlocal Agreement**

The City of College Station and Brazos County are close to signing an agreement that will continue Emergency Medical Service to Brazos County residents. The agreement calls for Brazos County to reimburse the City of College Station \$150,000 for fiscal year 2003 - 2004.

## **United Way**

The City of College Station has begun its annual United Way fund raising campaign. As you know United Way is the major city fund raising event of the year. This year several events are planned to include a kiss the BEVO, breakfast taco sale, hamburger cook out, and a silent auction.

We certainly appreciate the past participation in the fundraiser and we encourage everyone to participate this year. Your contributions go a long way to support many local agencies such as: First Call for Help, Brazos Food Bank, Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center, and Family Outreach of Bryan/College Station.

If you have not participated in the past please consider supporting this important program. If you are a participant, thank you for your continued support.

## **SAFETY**

A safety committee has been established within the city to better identify areas for improvement of overall safety practices. The department safety team members are: Billy Bradshaw, Jerry Duffey, David Huff, Pete Moreno, Mike Reed, and Linda Giffen. If anyone has suggestions or identifies a potential problem please speak to one of these team members.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

SEPT 22 - 25 TRENCH RESCUE AT ESTI

SEPT 27 SPECIAL OLYMPICS - Bocce

SEPT 29 TMRS MEETINGS BEGIN

SEPT 26 UNITED WAY - BREAKFAST TACO SALES

OCT 6 - 10 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCT 15 - 27 CHLORINE RESPONSE TRAINING AT DOWLING RD PUMP STATION

OCT 17 UNITED WAY HAMBURGER COOKOUT - CENTRAL PARK

OCT 19 65<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION

PLACE: ROMEI BUILDING 1:00 PM AND EVENING AT WOLF PEN CREEK

NOV 1 UNITED WAY SILENT AUCTION BEGINS

NOV 14 UNITED WAY SILENT AUCTION ENDS

NOV 14 COLLEGE STATION EMPLOYEE BANQUET

## LET'S CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Darrin Allen

Douglas Arndt

Billy Bradshaw

Lewis Clinkscales

James Connor

Matt Harmon

Steve Hisaw

Anthony Marino

Jon Mies

Leon Moore

Pete Moreno

John Norgaard

Raymond Olson

Chad Phillips

Donnie Ramirez

Fred Rapczyk

Mike Ruesink

Emilo Sanchez

Gabriel Sanchez

Shirley Sicinski

George Spain

Kevin Stobbs

Joshua Varner

Marvin Wagener

Bill Walton

Brandon Welch

Rodney Zalobny

## STATION 1 UPDATE

Pack-it-up - you're on the move - October 1 is the magic date. Labor and truck provided at 7 am until finished. New day room furniture has been ordered.

## STATION 5 UPDATE

The final design is being received on September 29 for code compliance review.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, JUNE 2003

Firefighter Canaan Blake was selected the June employee of the month. "Canaan's attitude and performance both in and out of the station is quite an asset to the department. Canaan has grown with tremendous bounds in his medical skills and shows a great deal of compassion for his patients. During fire fighting operations he maintains a cool demeanor and makes the scene easier to manage for all involved." Way to go Canaan!

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - Survivors

All of Fire Administration, Code Enforcement, Prevention, Public Education, and Parking survived the move to 300 Krenk Tap Road.

A great effort on everyone's part made for a relatively smooth transition into larger and brighter spaces. Give yourselves all a pat-on-the-back - thank your fellow employees - onward and upward to a great future.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, JULY 2003

Firefighter Matt Brunson was selected the July employee of the month. "Matt has a customer service based attitude whether on ambulance or fire truck. Matt has a can-do attitude and is responsible for training of station personnel. Other shifts or officers often contact Matt to get pointers on training issues." Congratulations Matt - another shining star!

**KEEP THOSE NOMINATIONS COMING!**

*The Mission of the College Station Fire Department is to provide cost efficient, high-quality fire suppression and emergency medical services while providing non-emergency services, such as fire prevention, public education, and code enforcement activities.*

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2003

Firefighter Greg Janda with his attitude of helpfulness allows the Fire Prevention Programs to continue happening and to excel. One of the most popular and frequently requested Public Education programs of the Fire Department is Fire Extinguisher Training. This training would not be possible without the use of the P-2000 Fire Extinguisher Trainer and a very dedicated employee to assist in maintaining this very expensive equipment. Very often the Trainer will stop working altogether. Greg has dropped everything and enthusiastically repaired the equipment. Thank you Greg for your skills of being a great mechanic that definitely carry over into many other areas of your job as a firefighter.

♥♥♥The average person walks four miles a year making their bed.♥♥♥

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## BREAKFAST BUFFET – Meet and Greet!

A breakfast buffet was held on Thursday, August 21 in the new conference room. Employees of Municipal Court, BVSWM, and Fire Administration gathered to share good food, and to introduce themselves to all the employees who share the new building at 300 Krenk Tap Road. Putting names to all the new faces helped everyone get to know their fellow employees. Complete strangers we are no more.



## COLLEGE STATION FIRE DEPARTMENT BASEBALL TEAM

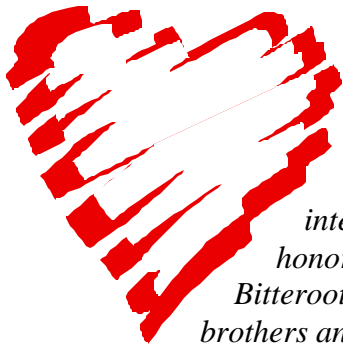
An employee baseball team was organized to play in fund-raising events. We have received generous support with equipment and shirts from BaseballEquipment.com, Academy, Applebee's, and Rick's Sporting Goods. The team practices on a regular basis and plays scrimmages with other teams from Bryan and College Station. An upcoming tournament on October 26 at Consolidated High School, starting at 11 am will benefit the Bryan Police Department's canine unit. The team will also be playing in a big tournament with C.S.P.D., B.F.D., and B.P.D. in April to raise funds for Scottie's House in Bryan.

Several firefighters have given graciously of their time to build and promote this very worthwhile recreational and community activity. Announcements will be made of upcoming scrimmages as they are scheduled. Get out there and support your team with a few cheers while helping our local charities in their worthwhile endeavors.

### DO YOU REMEMBER – 1970

September, 1971, is the target date set by General Telephone Company for installation and operation of equipment for the National Emergency Phone Number 911, in our city. This will be a "first" for College Station.

During the calendar year 1970, the fire department answered 112 general alarms and made 64 investigations of "still" alarms in the City of College Station, South Brazos County and on Texas A&M University property.



## An Open Letter to My Fellow Firefighters

*I extend my sincere thanks for all the thoughts and well wishes received from members of this organization and others in regard to my late brother. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Thraen, age 50 did indeed pass away while serving with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Ft. Carson, Colorado. Michael's ashes were subsequently interred at the Montana Veterans Cemetery, Helena, Montana, with full military honors. An avid outdoorsman, my brother made his home along the bank of the Bitterroot River in Western Montana. He is survived by his wife Susan, his parents, and five brothers and sisters. With life comes death, but with death also comes life.*

*Firefighter Tom Thraen*

## BUSY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

College Station Fire Department personnel responded to seventy calls during the Labor Day Weekend. Unfortunately most of the calls were EMS related as numerous major accidents occurred throughout the weekend. At one point on Saturday, August 30, our crews were working simultaneous vehicle extrications.

## **\$\$\$ FISCAL YEAR 03 - 04 BUDGET \$\$\$**

On August 28<sup>th</sup> City Council tentatively passed the fiscal year 03 - 04 budget. The Budget is approximately \$160,089,000 for the city. This includes \$124,530,084 for operations and maintenance and \$35,559,321 for Capital.

The Fire Department budget is \$7,149,560. This includes six service level adjustments. One for additional Firefighters for Station Five, increase for employee recognition, training materials, extractor for Station One, some digital cameras, and an increase in some line items accounts.

The over-all budget represents an increase in TML retirement from the current 6% to 7% employee contribution. The budget also calls for a 1-% salary increase to cover the cost of the TML increase. City Council still has to adopt a tax rate and pass an ordinance for implementation of the 7% retirement to take affect January 2004.

### **DID YOU KNOW . . .**

*October 29, 1971 – Emergency landing of a Davis Airline's twin engine aircraft experiencing engine problems. The plane landed safely at Easterwood Airport.*

*From the First 25 Years.*

As of September 30, 2003 the skills program and the pay for performance program will be suspended until further notice. All skills completed prior to September 30, 2003 must be reported to Human Resources by October 3, 2003. Remember, you are limited to two skill adjustments for this fiscal year. As you are well aware there is continued concern with the rising cost of employee health care and we are currently exploring options to include a joint program with Bryan and Brazos County.

Additional funding reflected in the overall 2003 - 2004 includes \$1,255,780 for construction of Station Five.

## ASSISTANT CHIEFS TO ROTATE POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Assistant Chief Eric Hurt and Fire Marshal Jon Mies will be rotating positions and job functions October 1, 2003. Eric will head-up Fire Prevention, Code Enforcement, Public Education, and Parking. Jon will head-up Emergency Operations and Training within the department.

This rotation will provide a training opportunity for both Eric and Jon while insuring a clear and full understanding of each job function within the organization. Please support Eric and Jon as they meet the new challenges in the future.

There are many projects Eric and Jon will be working on together as we transition job functions. Your support, input, and your expertise will be called upon to make this transition as smooth as possible.



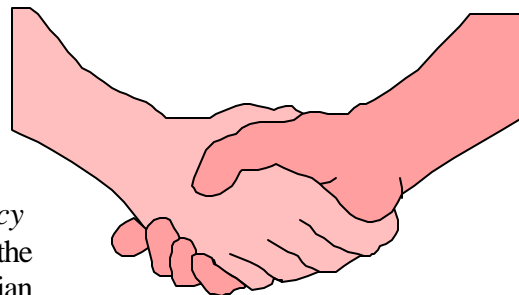
### ISO Evaluation

The Insurance Service Organization conducted a Fire Protection Class survey in College Station in early May 2003. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate our water distribution system, communications, and fire department to determine what our future ISO rating will be.

Currently the City of College Station is an ISO class 3 department. As of January 1, 2004 the City of College Station will move from the current 3 to a Fire Protection class rating of 2. ISO rates a city from 1 - 10. 1 is the best rating a city can have while a 10 indicates almost no fire protection at all.

### Welcome to the City of College Station Emergency Management Coordinator

Please stop by the old fire administration building on Texas Avenue and welcome *Brian Hilton* to the city. Brian is the newly appointed *Emergency Management Coordinator*. Brian will be working under the direction of the Assistant City Manager, Glenn Brown. The Fire Department will assist Brian as he transitions into his new position with the city.



## NEW HIRE UPDATE

There were 48 applications that met minimum requirements to test for a firefighter position. The test was administered to twenty-five applicants on Saturday August 23, 2003. Twenty applicants passed the examination and nineteen showed up for the physical agility test. All nineteen passed all portions of the physical agility test and were given personal history statement to complete. Seventeen applicants completed their personal histories and were received before the cut-off. Fire Prevention Officer Smith is currently conducting the background investigations, and a review board is scheduled for Tuesday September 30, 2003. Review Board Members are: Battalion Chief Spain, Lieutenant Quinlan, Lieutenant Rodgers, FFI Ballard, FFI Barker, FFI Gibson, and Human Resources Assistant Director Carolyn Sanders. Special thanks go to the members of "B" shift for their assistance with the agility test.

## FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

### New businesses opening soon:

Cambridge House student housing complex.  
Chipolte Restaurant on University Drive.



## KUDOS

Ms. Shevette Walker at 1220 Haley Place called to say, "we hire the best guys". Sunday, July 13, 2003 Station Two responded to her call for help during an attack by bees. She was stung 54 times. The employees on duty were Jeff Kuykendall, Canaan Blake, Clint Anderson, Lewis Clinkscales, Ernie Goode, and John Norgaard.

Emily Staples called Chief Hurt to pass on appreciation to the crews of 763 and 723 for their help on August 31 on South Highway 6. Emily said the crews went quickly and professionally into action, and helped to clear up a bad situation quickly. Thanks for all of your hard work.

## FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION EVENT UPDATES – FALL 2003

August 18, 2003	Bluebonnet House Resident Visit, 10:30 a.m.
August 20, 2003	Texas Forest Service Extinguisher Training, 9:00 a.m.
August 21, 2003	Melrose Place Extinguisher Training, 9:00 a.m.
September 3, 2003	Texas Summer Showcase of Fire Department Clown and Puppet Shows
September 9, 2003	Hilton and Hampton Fire Extinguisher Safety Training
September 13, 2003	C.A.R.T. – Community Action Response Team Training – 10-12:30 p.m.
September 17, 2003	Bee A Good Neighbor Carnival, Texas A&M University, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
October 22, 2003	Bee A Good Neighbor Block Party, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Bee Creek Park
November 12 and 13, 2003	D.E.A.D - Shattered Dreams, A&M Consolidated High School



**APPARATUS OPERATORS** – the Apparatus Operator written test was administered on July 18. The following employees successfully passed the written test: Tim Sullivan, James Sears, Paul Powell, Darryl Smith, Joe Gibson, Josh Varner, Richard Weisser, Chris Poole, and Andy Jones. Congratulations to all of the above listed candidates for their hard work and preparation to achieve a passing score on the written exam. This eligibility pool will remain in effect until 24:00 on July 17, 2004.

**August 15, 2003 -- Tim Sullivan and James Sears promoted to Apparatus Operators.**



## LUAU

If you missed the Luau – you missed a great time and good food. Even though it was a hot summer evening, the kids enjoyed the piñatas, goodie bags, moonwalk, and swimming. Great door prizes were won by the luck of the draw – congratulations to all. A great big thank you goes out to the Luau Committee and the food patrol: Julie Caler, Steve Smith, Canaan Blake, Joe Don Watson, Jeff Kurkendall, Cindy Dillard, Linda Giffen, Cindy Giedraitis. Plans will begin very soon on organizing next year's event – if you want to share any ideas or thoughts please contact Linda Giffen at extension 3705.





# GRANT MONEY

## **Fire Grant 2002**

We have received the major equipment we requested in the 2002 FIRE Grant: A light-duty haz mat truck and a 32' enclosed cargo trailer with gooseneck hitch. We have some funds available in this grant for miscellaneous expenses, such as lettering and graphics, shelving, and storage containers for equipment. This grant must be completed and closed out by 11-30-03. Total dollar value of this grant is approximately \$128,000.00.

## **Fire Grant 2003**

We have not been notified concerning our FIRE Grant application for 2003. At this time, FEMA has awarded approximately 3,400 grants totaling \$225.2 million (out of approximately \$630 million available for the program). FEMA will continue to announce grants each Friday, with a target date for completion of June 2004. The total dollar value of the requested grant is \$105,000. Requests include radio headset intercom systems for our apparatus that do not have them, portable, easy to set-up radio interface systems that would allow us to join different department/agency radios and telephones in a common voice "net" across bands and operating platforms, and a wireless personnel/equipment accountability system.



## **Texas Domestic Preparedness Assessment Grant 2002**

This is an equipment grant with a dollar value of approximately \$276,000. At this time we have received approximately 70% of the equipment we requested and anticipate receiving the remaining equipment before the end of the calendar year.

## **Texas Domestic Preparedness Assessment Grant 2003, Part 2**

This is an equipment grant with a total dollar value of \$269,000. There are two parts; a base grant of \$218,000 for any approved type of equipment and a "pass through" grant of \$51,000 that must be used for equipment to enhance communications interoperability. We are still in the process of requesting approval of our equipment list and are several months away from receiving any equipment.